

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6035

UNCLAS BANGKOK 26783

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ESCAP:OCON:ETEL

SUBJ: ESCAP:ASIAN TELECOMMUNITY STATUTE

REF: STATE 294188

1. PER REFTEL REQUEST EMBASSY VIEWS REGARDING EVOLUTION OF SUBJECT CONSTITUTION MEMBERSHIP PROVISION AND NEED FOR USG REPRESENTATION AT INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING PARTY MEETING FEBRUARY 16-21, 1976, FOLLOW.

2. TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, DECEMBER 16-25, 1974, BANGKOK, AFFIRMED THAT ESCAP ASSOCIATE MEMBERS COULD ENJOY MEMBERSHIP IN FUTURE ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE POSITION SUBSEQUENTLY PRESENTED TO ESCAP THIRTY-FIRST COMMISSION SESSION, FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 7, 1975, NEW DELHI. HOWEVER, COMMISSION BUCKED TASK OF DRAFTING TELECOMMUNITY STATUTE TO EXPERT GROUP MEETING, OCTOBER 15-21, 1975, BANGKOK. OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR STATUTE PREPARATION GIVEN TO ESCAP/ITU UNIT. NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT GRATITUDE WAS EXPRESSED DURING OCTOBER EXPERTS MEETING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR DRAFTING SPECIFIC ARTICLES FOR CONSTITUTION WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY WAS BASIS FOR STATUTE. SOURCEN OF EXCLUSIONARY LANGUAGE IN ARTICLE III OF CONSTITUTION, THEREFORE, CLEARLY INDIAN IN ORIGIN. RED SOURCES ARE CATEGORIC THAT INDIAN MOTIVE WAS TO MINIMIZE UK POTENTIAL INFLUENCE IN ASIAN TELECOMMUNITY BY ESCAP ASSOCIATE MEMBERS CURRENTLY/- FORMERLY COLONIALY LINKED TO UK.

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3. PLANNED FEBRUARY, BANGKOK INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING PARTY AGENDA HAS TWO SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS FOLLOWING TRADITIONAL OPENING ADDRESSES, ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA, VIZ., (4) REVIEW OF COMMENTS FROM UNNY, ITU AND MEMBER COUNTRIES OF ESCAP ON PROPOSED ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY AND (5) FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS AND NLEDGING OF CONTRIBUTIONS ON A BASIS TO BE RECOMMENDED.

4. RED BELIEVES SINCE ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY ESCAP MEMBERS HOLD NO OBJECTIONS TO ARTICLE III OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION, ACCORDING TO ESCAP/ITU UNIT, FEBRUARY INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING PARTY MEETING IS UNLIKELY MAKE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO DRAFT CONSTITUTION TEXT. FEBRUARY FORUM WILL LIKELY BE USED AS TACTICAL MENAS TO SOLIDIFY EXCLUSIONARY ARTICLE PROVISION RATHER THAN EDIT OR AMEND PRESENT DRAFT TEXT.

5. US REPRESENTATION AT FEBRUARY INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING PARTY MEETING WORTHWHILE IN OUR VIEW IF USDEL AUTHORIZED SUPPORT UK/HONG KONG ARGUMENTS FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR TTPI AMONG OTHERS. VIEW HIGH PROBABILITY OF CONFRONTATION WITHOUT COMMENSURATE RETURN, RED DOES NOT REPEAT NOT RECOMMEND US PARTICIPATION AT INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP MEETING.

6. INVITATIONAL LETTER AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP MEETING AIR MAILED BSTOKES, IO/CMD, DECEMBER 22.
WHITEHOUSE

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